

AT RIGHT:
IMB leader
Elizabeth Debnath
in front of an IMB
church building.

Stretching Dollars

in **INDIA** and **BANGLADESH**

by ALAN DOERKSEN

The ministries **Intercede** works with in India and Bangladesh use Intercede's aid frugally, but need more support for bicycles and motorcycles for their missionaries, according to Intercede's Richard Krawczyk. Along with Intercede President James Eagles, Krawczyk visited several of Intercede's partner ministries in India and Bangladesh in spring.

"It is surprising how far those guys stretch a dollar that they get from us," Krawczyk comments on the ministries in general. "The dollar really goes a long way. All of them are doing phenomenal work.

"Everywhere we went, to every ministry, the challenge was to get from village to village, place to place. What they really needed, what they were asking for was motorcycles—wheels to get around. A few of them asked for vehicles—that was for guys in the mountainous areas, where a four-wheel drive vehicle would be necessary. Most of them wanted as little as a bicycle, and a motorcycle would do it for them. That's a great need."

Transportation in India is very different from North America, Krawczyk notes. There were "tons of little taxis and buses. Every single one of them was packed. They were maxed out no matter where you went. The transportation system worked. It moved millions and millions of people." People were sitting on the roofs of buses and trains. Many people got around using

rickshaws pulled by people, or in three-wheeled auto-rickshaws.

Another thing Krawczyk noticed in India was that many people work 12-hour days. "Everything is manual-intensive," he describes Indian workplaces. One of the more troubling things was to see lower-caste women, especially older women who were doing the brunt of the hard labour work in the streets. "It was quite shocking," he says, to see these elderly women work for 12 hours a day for one dollar per day or so in wages.

IMPRESSED BY HUMBLENESS

When Krawczyk visited **Indigenous Mission of Bangladesh**, he was impressed by "the humbleness of the people there. They lived in a rented apartment and worked out of the apartment." He appreciated the work of the Bangladeshi missionaries—and the lives they are touching.

"Most of the work was in the countryside. They took us out to a village—it was a six-hour drive." IMB reaches out to the poor people in the country's villages.

Transportation for missionaries, finances for churches and support for pastors are the greatest needs of IMB, reports Krawczyk. "They're not doing as well as the people in India."

Banjara Tribal Ministries, based in Secun-



TOP LEFT:
A rather crowded
bus in India.

TOP RIGHT:
Banjara
schoolchildren pray
together.

BOTTOM LEFT:
Intercede's Richard
Krawczyk with BPB's
Gabriel Bethela
at the Shelter Ark
Children's Home.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Intercede's James
Eagles (right) and
Richard Krawczyk
(second from left)
with BPB leader Jaya
Thasiah (centre)
and BPB Bible
school students.

derabad, "was the most impressive" group Krawczyk visited.

Through the work of Indigenous leader and founder, Rev. Christopher Boda and co-workers, BTM has established several orphanages and a school—huge complexes. One had 800 children, another had 600, and another 300. "He was very visionary. Boda just pours everything of himself into the ministry," Krawczyk asserts. "That was very impressive. God has blessed him." BTM is blessing the orphan children in the mission's care with education and a new start in life.

Currently, BTM needs "financial support to finish the buildings on the campuses, and regular support for the ministry, to keep it going."

Krawczyk also met with leaders of **Bharat Bible College**, also based in Secunderabad.

"They're doing well, too," he observes. "They had about 20 students when we were there, training, from all over India." BBC's greatest current needs are "transportation and support for the college, so they can pay their staff and teachers." BBC also needs funds for books and literature.

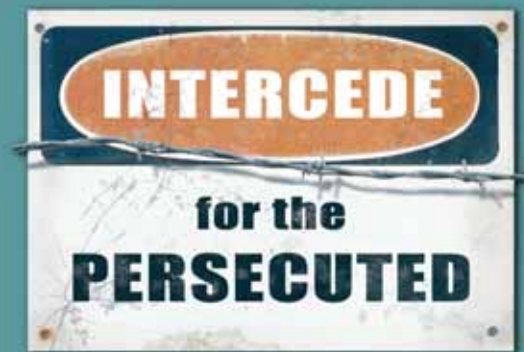
Krawczyk appreciated the humbleness of Jaya Thasiah, who leads **Bombay Revival Prayer Band** in Mumbai. "There's a lady who lost her husband. He passed away [early this year]. They lived in the same apartment for 50 years." Like the Bodas, Thasiah rents her apartment, and pours everything into the ministry.

"They have churches all over the place," explains Krawczyk. "We visited a church in the slums that they support. They're really reaching out to a lot of people who live in the slums.

"They also have a Bible college with really dedicated teachers. Again, they need more support." BPB's El-Bethel Bible Institute is in an old building in the slums of old Mumbai. "We had to go through alley-ways to get to it.

"They took us out to the countryside where they had an orphanage and a school which was just built a few years ago. They need support for that also. The teachers need support." The orphanage and school have been completed.

Praise God for how He is working in and through these ministries. Please pray that the financial and transportation needs of these ministries will be provided.



www.Intercedenow.ca

For more information and a quarterly Field Report from these ministries, contact Intercede mentioning these project codes: 710IMB, 620BTM, 620BBC, 637BPB.